



Medicare “Reform” through Rationing *You Don’t Choose—Obama’s Bureaucrats Do*

“The chronically ill and those toward the end of their lives are accounting for potentially 80 percent of the total health care bill out here....There is going to have to be a very difficult democratic conversation that takes place.”

— President Obama, [The New York Times](#), May 2009

- As part of his deficit reduction “plan,” President Obama proposed lowering the caps on overall Medicare spending that were originally included in Obamacare. Such caps on Medicare spending could lead to arbitrary reductions in access to care.
- *Charged with enforcing the Medicare cap would be a creation of Obamacare: the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a 15-member board of unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats appointed by the President that would make binding rulings on how to reduce Medicare spending.*
- President Obama could fill the IPAB with individuals who support limiting access to life-saving treatments. For instance, Donald Berwick, the President’s controversial appointee as Medicare administrator, stated in a [2009 interview](#) that **“The decision is not whether or not we will ration care—the decision is whether we will ration with our eyes open.”**
- The restraints on the IPAB’s power are very limited: Congress can only block its rulings with a two-thirds vote to override an expected presidential veto; and Americans do NOT have the ability to seek legal redress if harmed by these unelected bureaucrats’ decisions.
- With the program headed for insolvency within a decade, Medicare needs fundamental reform centered around patient choice—not another bureaucracy that will place arbitrary limits on patient care.

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